

**Developmental Disabilities Council
Public Policy Committee
DRAFT MINUTES
January 17, 2008**

Present: Leo Finnegan (chair), George Adams, Janet Adams (DDD), Kelly Boston (DVR), Sherrie Brown (UCEDD), Bob Doyle, Lori Flood, Stan Fukui, Shawn Latham, Patty McDonald (ADSA), and Carol Miller (DOH)

Absent: David Lord (DRW)

Staff: David Maltman and Brian Dahl - Donna Patrick was involved in legislative hearings and unable to participate.

Call to Order/Adjustment of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Leo called the meeting to order. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

MOTION: Shawn moved and Sherrie seconded the motion to approve the November committee minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Reception

Committee members commented upon their observations of the legislative reception. In general, Council members comments provided a number of suggestions on ways to improve the reception and had positive comments about the changes made this year such as captioning and legislator information. Staff will follow up with a survey to members and other participants in the reception.

Legislative Issues

Members had been provided with the Briefing Papers that summarize issues under consideration and David gave an update on the status of priority legislation as follows:

- HB 2693 establishes training and certification for individual providers.
- HB 2863 and SB 6448 create DD Children's Behavioral Crisis Supports services to maintain children at home instead of out of home placements
- HB 2599 and SB 6313 designate October as Disability History Month
- HB 2900 and SB 6713 (the Infants and Toddlers Equity Act) provides funds to counties to address increased enrollments and inconsistencies in the ways counties administer the program
- HB 3078 and SB 6669 called the Life Long Learning Act addresses the need for day activities in addition to employment for people who have severe and profound developmental disabilities
- Budget Item to obtain \$5 million in one time funds for the DD Endowment (Life Opportunities Trust) to continue providing matching funds for the next 1000 enrollees
- DD Community Land Trust (Dan Thompson Memorial Trust) would amend the Trust statute so newly identified excess land could be added to the Trust.

During the conversation about legislation, several members expressed concerns about public attitudes toward people with developmental disabilities. David reported on a survey by the Minnesota DD Council that compared public attitudes in 1962 with results of a survey in 2007. The report is encouraging. Staff will provide copies of the report at the March meeting.

Legislative Conference Call

The legislative conference calls, to discuss legislative issues with staff, will be held on Thursdays at 4:30 pm. Information will be distributed to all Council members.

Federal Issues

David provided a written report and reviewed action items at the federal level:

- The fiscal year '08 Appropriations bills was passed and signed by the President. The federal budget includes a \$2 million increase for Family Support that will go to technical assistance.
- Reauthorizing legislation for DD Councils, Protection and Advocacy Systems and DD University Affiliated Programs has been introduced as HR 2839.
- The President approved legislation to continue health care programs for children (SCHIP) through March of 2009.
- HR 3195 would strengthen the Americans with Disabilities Act has been introduced.
- Related bills that are in the process but not gaining traction are: prohibiting discrimination in insurance on the basis of genetic information, increased wages for direct support professionals and demonstration programs for people with autism.
- Leo and David met with staff for Congressmen Reichert and Mc Dermott to educate them about the problem limits on income and resources for SSI.

Bob Doyle asked staff to provide the members with a list of committee memberships for each of Washington State's Senators and Representatives with an explanation of the role of the committees. A list of committees and assignments will be furnished for the March committee meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda

- Federal and state issues update
- Council position on children residing in the Residential Habilitation Centers
- Minnesota survey on attitudes
- U.S. Congress committee assignments

Leo Council Report

Legislative issues both state and federal

Invitation for all members to join the Legislative conference calls

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.